

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NIC-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

ACDA-19 EUR-25 EB-11 RSR-01 /145 W
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O P 151012Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9170

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 5220

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, CU,VE,BR

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SUBJ: VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE ON CUBA

REF: STATE 157762, 158486, 159481; CARACAS 6933: BRASILIA
5006, 5137

1. FOLLOWING ARE PRINCIPAL POINTS CONCERNING GOB CURRENT POSITION AND THINKING, AS DESCRIBED TO ME BY ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER CARVALHO E SILVA, DURING MEETING PM AUG 13 IN WHICH I PASSED ON TO HIM OUR POSITION AS SET FORTH IN REFERENCES:

A. FOREIGN MINISTERY IS PREPARING NOTE FOR PROMPT DELIVERY TO VENEZUELA EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO INITIATIVE IN TERMS SIMILAR TO OUR OWN, BUT PROBABLY ALSO POINTING OUT (1) THAT VENEZUELAN CITATION OF "PLURALITY OF IDEOLOGIES" RESOLUTION SIGNIFICANTLY FAILED TO MENTION THE HIGHLY RELEVANT LAST PARA OF THAT RESOLUTION; AND (2) THAT THE FACT THAT OAS STUDY COMMISSION NOW FUNCTIONING WAS REASON FOR AWAITING OUTCOME OF ITS WORK RATHER THAN, AS GOV MEMO IMPLIES, ANTICIPATING ITS RESULTS.

B. THE BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR IN BOGOTA HAD BEEN ASKED TO TRY TO DETERMINE THE COLOMBIAN POSITION. CARVALHO E SILVA SAID THAT HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PRESIDENT PASTRANA'S ATTITUDE AS HE HAD UNDERSTOOD (AND THIS SEEMED TO BE BASED ON AMB. MACIEL'S REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON) THAT PASTRANA HAD BEEN OPPOSED TO COLOMBIAN SUPPORT OF THE GOV MOVE BUT APPARENTLY HAD GIVEN WAY TO VASQUEZ. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION WHETHER THE BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE THE GOB POSITION CLEAR, CARVALHO E SILVA STATED THAT IT WAS A MATTER OF A SIMPLE INQUIRY AND NOT AN INITIATIVE BY BRAZIL. IF THE AMBASSADOR WERE ASKED, HOWEVER, HE WOULD EXPRESS THE BRAZILIAN OPPOSITION TO THE GOV PROPOSAL.

C. NEITHER DOES THE GOB PLAN TO MAKE ANY APPROACH TO THE COSTA RICANS, ACCORDING TO CARVALHO. THE COSTA RICAN "FORMULA" SEEMED TO CARVALHO (WHO WAS WELL AWARE OF ITS TERMS) TO BE WORSE THAN THE VENEZUELAN.

2. CARVALHO, SPEAKING IN REPLY TO A SERIES OF QUESTIONS, MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOB DOES NOT INTEND AT LEAST NOW TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS. HE ARGUED
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THAT THE BRAZILIAN POSITION IS VERY WELL KNOWN, THAT A REITERATION OF THAT POSITION WOULD ONLY IRRITATE OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND THAT IN THE SPECIFIC CASE OF COLOMBIA AND VASQUEZ A BRAZILIAN DEMARCHE WOULD BE "INCONVENIENT". HERE HE MADE A VAGUE REFERENCE TO "CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES". CARVALHO ALSO RECITED AT SOME LENGTH THE UNHAPPY BRAZILIAN EXPERIENCE IN UNESCO AND IN UN ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA WHERE, WITH RESPECT TO CUBAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE LATIN

AMERICAN GROUP, BRAZIL HAD BEEN ISOLATED AND HAD HAD TO ACQUIESCE IN CUBAN ASSOCIATION. WHEN I ASKED HIM WHETHER IN LIGHT OF THIS "NO-INITIATIVE" POSTURE, HE WOULD OBJECT IF, IN THE COURSE OF OUR OWN CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS ABOUT VOTING POSITIONS WE WERE OURSELVES TO REFER TO BRAZILIAN OPPOSITION TO THE GOV INITIATIVE, HE DID SAY THAT SUCH REFERENCE BY US WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

3. CARVALHO ALSO EXPLAINED THAT, IF THE GOV INITIATIVE WAS INTRODUCED IN THE PERMANENT COUNCIL, BRAZIL WOULD WORK ENERGETICALLY AGAINST IT. WHEN I NOTED THAT THE VERY FACT OF A VENEZUELAN PRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL WOULD IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES MEAN THAT THE GOV HAD BROUGHT COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA ALONG AND THAT THEREFORE THE ISSUE HAD BEEN DECIDED, CARVALHO E SILVA EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THIS WAS NOT NECESSARILY SO AND THAT MANEUVERING ON PROCEDURAL AND JURIDICAL GROUNDS COULD BE EFFECTIVE.

4. WE AGREED THAT WE WOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH IF EITHER OF US GOT WIND OF ANY SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS.

5. COMMENT: IT IS QUITE EVIDENT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WANTS TO SEE THE GOV INITIATIVE FAIL, BUT IS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT IT HAS NO STOMACH FOR LEANING ON ANYONE, (EXCEPT, OF COURSE, VENEZUELA), AT LEAST ON THE BILATERAL PLANE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE REPORT FROM BOGOTA WHICH CARVALHO E SILVA WAS AWAITING WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST MAY CHANGE THE PICTURE. AND FURTHER INPUTS FROM US COULD OF COURSE ALSO BE A FACTOR. PLEASE KEEP US CLOSELY INFORMED OF THE PROSPECTS FOR THE INITIATIVE SO THAT WE CAN FOLLOW-UP HERE.

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